




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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/878,442	06/11/2001	Mrinal Kanti Das	5308-168	2584
20792	7590	04/26/2004	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627			JACKSON JR, JEROME	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2815	
DATE MAILED: 04/26/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/878,442	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DAS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jerome Jackson Jr.	<b>Art Unit</b> 2815	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-15,17-21,33-46 and 57-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-15,17-21,57 and 58 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-46 and 59-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/1/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 61 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agarwal et al "1400 V...MOSFETs" '98 in view of Lipkin et al "Insulator...on SiC..."3/99 and Smrtic.

Lipkin teaches various dielectrics such as ONO for SiC devices and it would have been prima facie obvious to have practiced a 1400 volt silicon carbide device as Agarwal with ONO dielectric for its superior dielectric properties as discussed in Lipkin. Practicing metal electrodes rather than polysilicon would have been obvious from Smrtic or practicing capacitors with the MOSFET for enabling a motor control circuit likewise would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill. The references together also suggest metal capacitors with ONO dielectric on SiC for devices operating in the kilovolt range. Claims 61 and 62 are completely obvious. There are no particular recitations of the ONO material in claims 61 and 62 as in other allowed claims.

Claims 33-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitrijevic in view of Smrtic.

The previous rejection still applies.

Claims 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitrijevic with Smrtic as above and further in view of Agarwal and Lipkin.

Metal plate capacitors with ONO dielectric from the suggestions of D and Lipkin for SiC devices of high voltage as Agarwal are obvious structure as explained above. Note also that the claimed SiON material is inherent from D. See the explanation below in regard to applicant's arguments. Claims 59 and 60 are obvious structure.

Claims 1-3,5-15,17-21,57,58 are allowed.

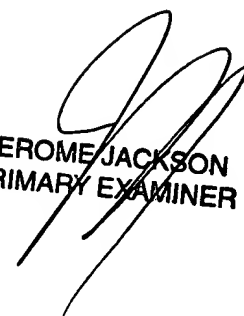
Applicant's arguments filed 3/1/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that the applied art does not teach SiNO as claimed is unconvincing because the nitrided oxide of Dimitrijevic (D) defines regions of SiNO material particularly at the interface of the SiC and at the surface of the oxide where the composition of the material meets the claimed recitations. The concentration of nitrogen in the oxide of D varies according to location. There are clearly interface and surface regions where the insulator is mostly if not all SiN. These regions define SiNO layers as claimed.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.



JEROME JACKSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER